

WORK FOR THE EXTRA SESSION.

It now appears certain that Governor Boyd will convene the legislature in extra session at an early day.

It is doubtful whether Governor Boyd himself has fully made up his mind as to the subjects he will embody in his call.

It is equally problematic whether the legislature with its peculiar composition can be depended on to enact any of the laws the governor may see fit to recommend.

Assuming, however, that a majority of the legislature is disposed to give the people needed relief and honestly desires to carry out its unfulfilled pledges of reform, it may not be out of place at this time to make a few suggestions.

Taking it for granted that Governor Boyd will include in his call maximum freight regulation, it is to be hoped the legislature will not juggle with the railroad questions the Iowa legislature has done during two sessions with prohibition by opposing one bill to another and charging the opposition party with the failure to pass either bill.

There is no effort to make political capital, but an effort to give the people lower rates on the principal staples that Nebraska exports and imports.

The Newberry bill was never honestly supported by a majority of the legislature, but it was simply bulldozed through, with the full knowledge that it was unreasonable and would be so pronounced by the courts.

Next to a fair and reasonable maximum rate bill the people can be best served by a thorough revision of our revenue laws.

Our system of taxation has for many years worked great injustice to the farmers and all other owners of real estate.

It has been an incentive to tax shirking, wholesale perjury and systematic discrimination by the assessors and by the State Board of Equalization.

The state board as it is now constituted is as much of a farce as the State Board of Transportation.

Although the constitution expressly provides for the taxation of franchises there never has been a dollar of taxes collected from a franchised corporation for the privileges it enjoys.

It may be found impracticable to make a thorough and well digested revision of the revenue laws at the extra session.

In that event the legislature should create a tax revision commission, either chosen out of its own body or appointed by the governor.

This commission should be empowered to formulate a set of revenue laws and report them back to the present legislature if it should see fit to take a recess for a few months, or have the governor submit the work of the commission to the legislature of 1893.

If the legislature is in real earnest about political reform it can do so most effectively by enacting a law that will make it a misdemeanor for any public official to accept a railroad pass or any substitute for a pass.

It is to be hoped the governor will not omit the anti-pass law from his call and give every member a chance to go on record.

Another much needed reform is an act that will make it unlawful for any person to hold two offices, federal, state, county or city, at the same time.

Last, but not least, we should have the Australian ballot law applied to primary elections, and thus strike at the top root of corruption and fraud in our political nominating machinery.

There is talk of bringing forward a compromise candidate, but this is a matter more easy to talk about than to do.

William C. Whitney has been mentioned as a possibility, but he was secretary of the navy in the administration of Mr. Cleveland and would hardly be acceptable to Hill. Governor Flower would like to bloom into a presidential candidate, but he is too much of a Hill man to be acceptable to the Cleveland faction.

Meanwhile Hill is working industriously on the outside. He has his workers in other states, and he is operating somewhat on the still-hunt plan which Samuel J. Tilden added to political methods. It does not appear that Mr. Hill is making much headway, but he nevertheless may be doing so.

THE BALANCE IN THE NATIONAL TREASURY has reached the lowest point in many years, and it is evident that there will have to be legislation to enable the treasury to meet its obligations.

Of course there is \$100,000,000 in gold on hand to secure the greenbacks, but there is some question as to whether this fund can be touched for meeting expenditures, and the senate judiciary committee has been instructed to report on this question.

A rather more serious question, perhaps, relates to the expediency of diverting this fund, or any part of it, to another purpose than that for which it was set aside, so that if it shall be found that it may lawfully be so diverted congress will probably hesitate about using it.

Obviously, however, the situation has reached that condition where there is imperative necessity for early action for the relief of the treasury, or the government will be compelled to put off obligations due, an experience it has not had in many years and one the possibility of which cannot be agreeably contemplated.

PETER A. DEY was elected railroad commissioner of Iowa by the railroad employees' organization. The success achieved at the last election has stimulated the railway men to mass themselves in lodges elsewhere.

At Sioux City they claim they will have several hundred voters at the next election. There is no doubt but the wage-earners of the railways of the country can swing a very heavy vote, and may, when massed for or against any candidate, be potential in a close election.

But if the railway employees were arrayed against the interests of all other wage-workers and producers, they would occupy a position very much more like mercenary militia than like sovereign citizens of a republic. Their attitude would inevitably result in the overthrow of the corporations whom they were trying to serve.

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